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LETTER DATED 26 AUGUST 1997 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF LUXEMBOURG TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement by the Presidency of the European Union concerning national dialogue in Burundi issued on 22 August 1997.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sylvie LUCAS
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Deputy Permanent Representative of Luxembourg
to the United Nations

97-22626 (E) 270897 270897

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement concerning national dialogue in Burundi issued on 22 August 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union

In the run-up to the opening of multi-party political negotiations at Arusha in the United Republic of Tanzania on 25 August 1997 under the auspices of the former President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Mr. Julius Nyerere, the European Union expresses its full support for this process. It urges all parties in Burundi to embark definitively upon the path of negotiation and to refrain from setting preconditions which might create obstacles thereto. The European Union considers that representatives of all the political institutions and tendencies, without exception, should be able to take part in the negotiations.

The European Union renews its urgent appeal to all the parties to agree that an immediate ceasefire and the renunciation of all forms of violence should be the priority topics at the Arusha negotiations. It warns extremist circles in Burundi against making any attempt to hinder the process of negotiation and national reconciliation and calls upon them to support the peace process, which should be conducted in a climate of trust and calm.

The European Union will continue to follow and support the efforts to achieve peace and the restoration of democracy in Burundi and remains willing to furnish technical assistance to the judicial and constitutional process. It welcomes the important contribution of the European Union Special Envoy, Mr. Ajello of the Special Envoy of the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, Mr. Sahnoun, and of the other international efforts, in particular that of the community of Sant'Egidio, to the peace process.

The European Union hereby appeals to all the States of the region to support a peaceful settlement of the Burundian crisis through dialogue and negotiation.